



City of New Bedford  
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **Mayor Meets With Stakeholders to Discuss Job Retention at Revere Copper and Brass and Michael Bianco, Inc.**

**New Bedford, Massachusetts-** Mayor Scott W. Lang held a meeting on Friday, March 30, 2007 at New Bedford City Hall with state and local officials as well as company and union representatives to discuss job retention strategies for two New Bedford based companies. The development of a workable strategy for retaining jobs at Revere Copper and Brass and a discussion about the future of Michael Bianco, Inc. were the focus of the recent meeting.

Several state and local officials attended this meeting including, Massachusetts Secretary of Housing & Economic Development, Dan O'Connell; Marty Walsh, Massachusetts Office of Business Development; Graham Shalgian, Senator Edward Kennedy's Office; Jon Jennings, Senator John Kerry's Office; Ines Goncalves-Drolet, Congressman Barney Frank's Office; State Representative Robert Koczera; Bob Culver, Mass. Development; Matthew Morrissey, New Bedford Economic Development Council as well as many city department heads.

Mayor Lang, who called on local and state offices to come together for the economic strategy meeting said, “All of the public entities that are necessary to help resolve the various issues that face Revere Copper and Brass were present at the meeting on Friday. All of us are committed to working in a cooperative way to provide a way to keep Revere’s jobs in New Bedford and bolster the manufacturing sector of our local and state economy.” The working group will continue to gather information and will work to find solutions to resolve the issues that face Revere.

The group’s goal regarding Bianco Inc. is to preserve the approximately 511 jobs that the company has in New Bedford. Mayor Lang’s position is that a trustee should be appointed to run the company while the criminal charges against the owner are resolved. This will enable the company to continue to fill the defense department contracts thereby providing employment opportunities for the legal residents of New Bedford. New Bedford has a long tradition of skilled needle trade factories, many of which have closed over the past 150 years due to offshore competition. Many of these workers are ready at the present time to perform the stitcher and needle trade duties at Michael Bianco, Inc.

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